

### Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

### Listing of Claims

1-5. (Canceled)

6. (Currently amended) ~~The method of claim 1, wherein said at least one marker is said A~~  
method for determining the severity of a rheumatoid arthritis condition in a mammal, said  
method comprising determining whether or not a sample from said mammal contains an  
elevated level of a CD21L polypeptide, wherein the presence of said elevated level indicates  
that said rheumatoid arthritis condition is severe, and wherein said sample comprises  
synovial tissue or synovial fluid.

7-20. (Canceled)

21. (Currently Amended) ~~The method of claim 13, wherein said at least one marker is said A~~  
method of assisting a person in determining the severity of a rheumatoid arthritis condition in  
a mammal, wherein said method comprises:

a) determining whether or not a sample from said mammal contains an elevated level of a  
CD21L polypeptide, wherein said sample comprises synovial tissue or synovial fluid, and

b) communicating information about the presence or absence of said elevated level in  
said sample to said person, wherein the presence of said elevated level indicates that said  
rheumatoid arthritis condition is severe.

22-35. (Canceled)

36. (Currently Amended) ~~The method of claim 1, wherein said at least one marker is said A~~  
method for determining the severity of a rheumatoid arthritis condition in a mammal, said  
method comprising determining whether or not a sample from said mammal contains an  
elevated level of an SLC polypeptide, wherein the presence of said elevated level indicates

that said rheumatoid arthritis condition is severe, and wherein said sample comprises synovial tissue or synovial fluid.

37. (Currently Amended) ~~The method of claim 1, wherein said at least one marker is said A~~  
method for determining the severity of a rheumatoid arthritis condition in a mammal, said  
method comprising determining whether or not a sample from said mammal contains an  
elevated level of a DC-CK 1 polypeptide, wherein the presence of said elevated level  
indicates that said rheumatoid arthritis condition is severe, and wherein said sample  
comprises synovial tissue or synovial fluid.

38. (Canceled)

39. (Currently Amended) ~~The method of claim 1, wherein said at least one marker is said A~~  
method of assisting a person in determining the severity of a rheumatoid arthritis condition in  
a mammal, wherein said method comprises:

a) determining whether or not a sample from said mammal contains an elevated level of  
an SLC polypeptide, wherein said sample comprises synovial tissue or synovial fluid, and

b) communicating information about the presence or absence of said elevated level in  
said sample to said person, wherein the presence of said elevated level indicates that said  
rheumatoid arthritis condition is severe.

40. (Currently Amended) ~~The method of claim 1, wherein said at least one marker is said A~~  
method of assisting a person in determining the severity of a rheumatoid arthritis condition in  
a mammal, wherein said method comprises:

a) determining whether or not a sample from said mammal contains an elevated level of a  
DC-CK 1 polypeptide, wherein said sample comprises synovial tissue or synovial fluid, and

b) communicating information about the presence or absence of said elevated level in  
said sample to said person, wherein the presence of said elevated level indicates that said  
rheumatoid arthritis condition is severe.

41. (Canceled)